

Leasing of lignite/coal blocks

2793. SHRI O. T. LEPCHA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons due to which Government propose to change the present policy for leasing of lignite/coal block;

(b) the reasons due to which Government propose to deprive the rights of the State Government contained in Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to utilize their mineral resources as per their priorities; and

(c) whether Government would agree to give 75 per cent Production Link Payment to State Government if bidding process is applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Ministry of Coal has informed that with the increase in demand for coal and limited number of coal blocks available for allocation, there is need to bring about transparency and objectivity in the process of selection of applicants for such blocks.

(b) State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mineral concession. Prior approval of the Central Government is required in respect of minerals in First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. As per available information, there is no proposal to deprive the rights of State Government to grant mineral concessions.

(c) Ministry of Coal has not taken any decision in the matter.

Study for protection from earthquake

†2794. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study for protection of lives and property in urban and rural areas in view of the situation prevailed after the devastating earthquake in the country particularly in Gujarat;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount made available to Geological Survey of India for this purpose;

(d) whether Geological Survey of India (G.S.I.) has taken help of experts of this field available throughout the world; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes seismic surveys in the affected areas after the major earthquakes in the country. Such studies were also done after the Gujarat earthquake in January 2001, with the basic objective to prepare the isoseismal map of earthquake affected area based upon the damages to different types of structures/buildings, terrain changes and human perception. Results of these studies would be useful in developing future mitigation strategies. The details of studies undertaken by GSI on the Gujarat Earthquake have been published in GSI special publication 76, released in 2003.

(c) No separate funds were provided to GSI for the above studies. GSI undertook earthquake related studies out of funds allocated for 'special investigations'.

(d) and (e) GSI has undertaken collaborative research pertaining to earthquakes with researchers from University of Japan, Geological Survey of Japan and IIT, Kanpur.

Revival of Bharat Gold Mines Limited

2795. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to float global tenders for the revival of Bharat Gold Mines Limited in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF);